REPORT OF COUNCIL

OF

16

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION

AND OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS,

TO THE

FIFTH GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS,

20, HANOVER SQUARE, W.,

THURSDAY, MARCH 10TH, 1904, AT 4 P.M.

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1904.



National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other Forms of Tuberculosis.

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Alfred Hillier, M.D.

Central Office: 20, Hanover Square, London, W.

OBJECT, METHODS, AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION.

- 1. Object.—The prevention of Tuberculosis.
- 2. Members.—The Association consists of Ordinary and of Life Members. The contribution of Ordinary Members is 5s, annually. Those who subscribe annually a sum of not less than one guinea are enrolled as Subscribing Members. Life Members give a donation of five guineas.

3. Methods.—

- I. The education of public opinion and the stimulation of individual initiative by means of—
 - (a) A Central Office for the collection and distribution of information as to modes of diffusion of Tuberculosis and measures of prevention.
 - (b) The circulation of pamphlets and leaflets setting forth in plain language the results of scientific investigations of the above points.
 - (c) Public Lectures by men approved by the Council; Addresses at Congresses and other public gatherings.
 - (d) Co-operation with other societies having for their object the promotion of public health.
 - (e) The co-operation of the public press.
 - (f) Periodical Congresses and the issue of an Annual Report.
 - (g) The promotion of the establishment of open-air Sanatoria for tuberculous patients.
- II. The influencing of Parliament, County Councils, Boards of Guardians, Chambers of Agriculture, and other Public Authorities on matters relating to the Prevention of Tuberculosis.
- 111. The establishment throughout the kingdom of local Branches of the Association. Secretaries of Branches are supplied with all literature at cost price.

National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other Forms of Tuberculosis.

COUNCIL'S REPORT TO THE FIFTH GENERAL MEETING, TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, THE 10th MARCH, 1904, at 4 p.m.

The Council beg to submit to the Fifth Annual General Meeting of Members, their report for the year ending December 31st, 1903. During the past five years of the Association's existence, the education of public opinion on the prevention of consumption has, chiefly owing to the work of the Association and its branches, made very considerable advance, and the press shows steadily increasing interest in the fight against tuberculosis.

A reference to the Balance-sheet will show that during the year the expenditure of the Association exceeded its revenue by £294–14s. 2d. Funds are therefore urgently required, and the Council hope that every effort will be made to collect them.

After the visit to Germany of a deputation from the National Conference of Friendly Societies, reported at our last Annual Meeting, a further conference between mem-

Finance.

National Committee for promotion of sanatoria.

bers of your council, and delegates from the Hospital Saturday Fund was held last year, at which it was decided to form a National Committee for the establishment of sanatoria for workers suffering from tuberculosis. The Committee which has been formed in accordance with the decision of this Conference has assumed a very representative character, and on it there are represented various branches of the Ancient Order of Foresters, the Hospital Saturday Fund, the Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association, Mutual Aid Society of the Royal Arsenal, National Deposit Friendly Society, your own Association through its Secretary, and a large number of friendly and other organisations. Mr. W. G. Bunn, the well-known secretary of the Hospital Saturday Fund has been elected Hon. Secretary to the Committee, and a small executive has been appointed. They have in the first instance been requested to ascertain the requirements of consumptive workers, the accommodation at present existing, and also to suggest and organise a scheme for the promotion of such sanatorium accommodation as may be necessary.

As the prevention of consumption is the primary purpose Notification of our Association, your Council have persistently for the culosis. past five years used their best endeavours by the dissemination of literature, attendance at public meetings, and correspondence with public and other authorities, to further the adoption of voluntary notification of phthisis to the medical officers of health in all districts throughout the country. This practice has been extending, and in the case of Sheffield, owing to the strong representation made by the Medical Officer of Health and one of the medical advisers to the Local Government Board, a select Committee of the House of Commons recently sanctioned a corporation byelaw for Sheffield, in which notification of tuberculosis of the lungs is made compulsory on every registered medical practitioner called upon to visit any person suffering from such disease. The clause does not, however, insist on isolation and segregation of the cases notified. This bye-law was

allowed by the Committee for a period of seven years, and its working in Sheffield will be watched with very close interest. Compulsory notification has been in vogue in New York for several years, and has been attended with excellent results. The question of the expediency of urging compulsory notification throughout the country is one to which the Medical Officers of Health as a body are now giving considerable attention.

Prohibition of spitting.

At the last Annual Meeting of this Association you will recollect that the following resolution, proposed by Sir William Broadbent, was carried manimously:

It is resolved in the opinion of this Meeting—"That spitting on the floors of public buildings, on platforms, corridors, staircases, and in public carriages or passenger boats, or in any covered place of public resort, should be forbidden by law."

Since that meeting and during the past year you will be interested and pleased to know that the London County Council has passed the following bye-law:

"No person shall spit on the floor, side, or wall of any public carriage, or of any public hall, public waiting room, or place of public entertainment, whether admission thereto be obtained upon payment or not.

"Any person who shall offend against this bye-law shall be liable for each offence to a fine not exceeding forty

shillings."

Thanks to the enlightened and spirited action of its County Council, London has thus followed Glamorganshire in a piece of sanitary and public-health legislation which has met with the unanimous approval of the press and the public, and has set a valuable example to all the large cities of the country. We hope this action will be shortly followed not only by other County Councils and Municipalities, but by the great railway companies, who have it in their power to place such a bye-law upon their code, and on whom the expediency of this step has been

constantly urged by your Conneil. As the dried and pulverised expectoration of the tuberculous subject is universally recognised as one of the main causes of the spread of consumption, the immense importance of suppressing the habit of indiscriminate spitting, both as a danger and a nuisance, will be fully realised by members of this Association.

It must be evident that, without some means of isolating Consumpthe consumptive cases in these institutions, danger of the tives in workhouses incidence of this disease among the inmates is very great. and asylums. It is, therefore, satisfactory to be able to report that steps have been taken by some few Boards of Guardians in Great Britain to deal with the question, not only of isolation, but also of treatment, and with good results. Much more, however, remains to be done in this direction, and your Council have thought it wise to have a paper written, which will be published in the next number of the Journal, upon this whole question, bringing up to date all that has so far been done in England and Wales by the Guardians of the Poor.

The Local Government Board are known to be in perfect sympathy with this movement, and we believe much more progress in this good work will have been made before the year of 1904 comes to an end.

With regard to consumption in the asylums for the insane, a Committee of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland have recently brought up a very full and complete report, with admirable suggestions which have already had the hearty approval of your Council. It is to be hoped that the Commissioners in Lunacy will take steps to see that the suggestions, especially with regard to the isolation of the consumptive cases, are carried out in all the asylums within their jurisdiction.

The Council would take this opportunity of respectfully Hospital urging upon all hospital authorities throughout the country out-patient departments. the extreme importance, both from an educational and preventive point of view, of seeing that consumptive

patients who attend hospital out-patient departments are supplied with pocket spittoons and leaflets of simple instructions on the precautionary measures necessary for the safety of others as well as themselves. An extremely serviceable pocket spittoon is now obtainable wholesale in England at a very low price.

Sanatoria.

Considerable progress for the promotion of sanatoria has been made during the year, and a fresh edition of the Sanatorium List published by the Association shows that there are some 70 institutions in the United Kingdom making a total of 2760 beds. This is an increase of 18 institutions and 375 beds over the return in October, 1902. It is, however, necessary to point out that the majority of these institutions are for private paying patients, and the need for providing accommodation for the poor consumptive remains as before, extremely urgent. The most important movement in connection with sanatorium work which has occurred during the past year was celebrated in the laying of the foundation stone of the King Edward VII Sanatorium by the King, near Midhurst, on November 3rd. When this beautifully situated building is completed another 100 beds will be added to those already available in this country. The Daneswood Sanatorium has recently been opened at Woburn Sands in Bedfordshire, and largely owing to the generosity of Mr. Bischoffsheim, Jewish applicants are admitted free of all charge. There are eight beds for women and fourteen for men. The hospitals containing 1850 beds, erected at Gore Farm for small-pox, under the control of the Local Government Board, are still unoccupied, and your Council would once more urge upon the Local Government Board the desirability of utilising these beds for advanced consumptive cases. Their requirement for small-pox appears to be an extremely remote contingency, and your Council would again call attention to the fact that the advanced consumptives among the poorer classes left in their own small and often crowded homes are the most important cause of spreading infection.

Several Corporations and District Councils have during Action of the last year contributed towards the erection and main-health authorities. tenance of sanatoria, an action which this Council hopes will be followed by others.

With regard to the Membership of the Association, there Membership. are at the present time 935 members of the Central Association and 2900 of the branches, making a total of 3835.

There are now in the United Kingdom twenty branches Branches of the Association and five kindred associations. branches have entire control of their own affairs, and in many instances are doing excellent work, especially in connection with the promotion of sanatoria in their district. A report of the proceedings of branches appears from time to time in the Journal 'Tuberculosis,' and a list of their officers and official address will be found at the end of the Report. During the year new branches were formed at Hereford and the Aberystwyth University, which has constituted itself into a separate branch of the West Wales Branch. At the present time a sanatorium for 60 beds is rapidly approaching completion at Winsley, with 40 free beds and 20 beds at an average charge of about 6s. a week, and both the building and the maintenance funds have been obtained by the efforts of the Sanatorium Committee of the Gloucestershire, Somerset, and Wilts Branch of the Association, of which Dr. Lionel Weatherly, one of your Council, is the chairman. Glasgow is raising funds for the provision of a sanatorium; West Wales Branch has obtained a site and is appealing for funds; the Leeds Association has a sanatorium for 30 beds; the Devon and Cornwall Branch have started their sanatorium at Didworthy; and the Cumberland Branch have procured a site to build a sanatorium; Paisley and one or two other centres are taking measures to provide sanatoria.

In addition to the branches in the United Kingdom, Colonial Colonial branches or kindred associations have been formed

in Canada, Victoria, New South Wales, South Anstralia, Natal, and the Cape Colony.

Publications.

The leaflets published by the Association are disposed of to public bodies, employers of workmen, and workmen themselves whenever an opportunity occurs, and in this way a large number are distributed. The quarterly journal 'Tuberculosis,' is sent out to all members of the Central Association and to the secretaries of branches for distribution among branch members. 4100 copies of the journal are distributed in this way, and a number are also sent to public libraries. It may be suggested that one of the best means by which members may further the objects of the Association is by obtaining leaflets at cost price and distributing them.

International Central Committee.

The Spring Meeting of the International Central Committee was held at Paris from the 3rd to the 5th of May, and the British National Association delegates present were Sir James Blyth, Mr. Malcolm Morris, and the Secretary. The Secretary of this Association again brought forward the resolution which was passed by the Association at the Annual Meeting last year, with regard to the prohibition of spitting at large, and nrged upon the representatives of the national associations thoughout Europe the urgent necessity for common action in reference to the prohibition of this dangerons habit. The resolution was carried after a considerable discussion, and a sub-committee to suggest means whereby to approach the various European Governments was appointed. The question will be brought forward again by Dr. Alfred Hillier at the next meeting of the International Central Committee, which will be held at Copenhagen in May of this year. It is felt that the action which the London County Council has taken will greatly strengthen the hands of those who desire to see bye-laws on this important subject brought into existence throughout Europe. At the official banquet of the Paris Conference Mr. Malcolm Morris responded on behalf of the British delegates, and in his speech pointed out that the

national associations for the prevention of consumption should, in his opinion, lead and not be content merely to follow public opinion. The public seance to which the representatives of the different associations were invited was presided over by the Ex-President of the French Republic, M. Casimir Perier, who delivered an address on the work before the International Bureau.

During the past year the Association has sustained the Deathsloss of its most distinguished Vice-President, the late Right Honourable Marquess of Salisbury, K.G., who, it will be remembered, spoke at the meeting at Marlborough House on December 20th, 1898, held at the invitation and under the presidency of our present King, then Prince of Wales, and on this occasion the Marquess of Salisbury moved a resolution expressing approval of the effort that this Association was making to check the spread of the disease due to tuberculosis, and to promote the recovery of those suffering from consumption and tuberculous disease generally. The Council have also to deplore the loss during the year of a colleague distinguished in public health, the late Professor Corfield, Sanitary Adviser to the Board of Works.

In accordance with Clause 12 of the Articles of Associa-Council. tion the following six members of the Council retire:—Sir George Brown, C.B., Sir Alexander Kinloch, Bart., Colonel Wyndham Murray, M.P., Dr. Vivian Poore, Mr. C. Rube, and Mr. Harold Swithinbank. The Council beg to recommend that Sir William Collins, and Mr. A. H. Tubby, F.R.C.S., be elected members of the Council, and that the following members be re-elected: Sir George Brown, C.B., Mr. C. Rube, Mr. Harold Swithinbank, and Sir Alex. Kinloch.

By Order of the Council,

ALFRED HILLIER,

Secretary.

National Association for Prevention of Consumption and other Forms of Tuberculosis.

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37, WALBROOK, E.C.;

1st February, 1904.

Audited and approved.

Treasurer.

(Signed) MALCOLM MORRIS,

TOM MUNDY, F.C.A.

LIST OF DONATIONS IN 1903.

| | | | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------------------|------------|---------|------|-----|----|
| Messrs. N. M. Rothschild | d and Sons | | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| H. B. Marshall, Esq | | | 50 | 0 | 0 |
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| Lord Iveagh | | | 10 | 0 | 0 |
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| J. S. Curtis, Esq | | | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| "A Friend" | | | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| The Prudential Assurance | e Company | | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Messrs. Brown and Polse | | | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Messrs. Sargood, Sons, a | nd Ewen | | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lady Loch | | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Alfred Deed, Esq | | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| J. Newton, Esq | | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sir J. Wolfe Barry, K.C. | B., C.E. | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
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